

14 \$MILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
REFORMER

gineering'enterprises, he constantly showed himself to be in. advance of his age, — such as it was in France, — full of faith in science, gifted with remarkable foresight as to possible developments, and possessed of an energy which no rebuff could overcome. In 1831 his schemes for the fortification of Paris had been shelved; but directly that question was publicly revived by the French government (1839—1840), Francois Zola, undismayed by the failure of his long efforts at Marseilles, again did battle for his ideas. It is a curious circumstance, established by his writings and supply- ing strong proof of his foresight, that he was opposed to the construction of a rampart round the city, and advocated a system of detached forts. Long years afterwards, the Franco-G-erman War of 1870 demonstrated the general accuracy of his views; the rampart, raised contrary to his advice, then, proved absolutely useless, and is now being removed, in part at all events; while the advanced forts of the time, though. their system was imperfect, alone rendered efficient service against the besiegers. But it is remarkable to find that of recent years, in adding to the forts which did duty during the German investment, in erecting others in advance of them so as to enclose a larger stretch of country, whence

the city might derive supplies of food in time of
siege, the
French military authorities have followed in all
noteworthy
respects the line traced by Frangois Zola, first
in 1831, and
secondly in 1840!

Thus time brings round its revenges.
Frangois Zola was
a gifted and able man, and well might a son be
proud of
having such a father. How proud Smile Zola
was to have
sprung from one who showed such practical
and far-seeing
genius, how he vindicated his memory, and
smote his